

REMARKS

The present invention is directed to a method for discharging current from a gas diffusion electrode.

Applicant has further amended independent claim 1 herein, in order to more specifically define the present invention. Support for the amended claim recitation is found, e.g., at page 13, line 10 - page 14, line 21 of the specification.

Applicant respectfully submits that the presently claimed invention is unobvious and patentable over the cited art of record cited in the Final Office Action dated March 31, 2008. In this regard, it has been noted that in accordance with the presently claimed invention, the gas diffusion electrode and the chamber wall are required to be electrically connected with each other, and amended independent claim 1 herein further indicates the nature of the connection in terms of the contact surface pressure.

Applicant respectfully submits that the Gestermann reference fails to disclose the electrical connection that is required in accordance with the presently claimed invention. Furthermore, the secondary reference Sakata, additionally cited with respect to the obviousness rejection of claims 3 and 4, adds nothing to the Gestermann reference that would render present claim 1, or the dependent claims, obvious.

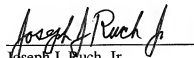
With respect to the earlier double patenting rejections, Applicant respectfully maintains that these rejections should be withdrawn for the reasons set forth at pages 3 - 4 of the Response filed June 18, 2008, which was not traversed in the Advisory Action issued July 2, 2008.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of pending claims 1 - 5 of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby earnestly solicited.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the local Washington, D.C. telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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